Sorry this is late buut I was in Huntsville for the Hamfest and no way to update this mailing list. This will happen from time to time if I travel as this list is only maintaineds on my computer. If you do not see it posted to you direct, its always availabke for download at www.arnewsline.org. Always check there for the latest newscast. -- de BillP. / WA6ITF

deBill P.

Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) Report 1723 - August 20 2010

Amateur Radio Newsline report number 1723 with a release date of Friday, August 20 2010 to follow in 5-4-3-2-1.

The following is a Q-S-T. Hams in Pakistan lead relief efforts in the wake of monsoon flooding, a cooling system failure on the International Space Station has impacted ARISS operations, unlicensed consumer devices come to the 70 centimeter repeater input subband in New Zealand and researchers say to be careful using green lasers. Find out why on Amateur Radio Newsline(tm) report number 1723 coming your way right now.

(Billboard Cart Here)

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RESCUE RADIO: PAKISTANI HAMS IN HUMINATERIAN FLOOD RELIEF EFFORT

The Pakistan Amateur Radio Society in association with Islamabad Jeep Club and Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians are leading a humanitarian relief effort in the wake of massive flooding in that nation. Amateur Radio Newsline's Burt Hicks, is here with the details:

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Monsoon rains have hit Pakistan the past few weeks followed by disastrous floods the likes of which have not been seen in some regions for the last eight decades. Communications is at a premium with cellular and wire line telephone service out as a result of the storms. Restoration of cellular service and landlines phones could take months.

In order to address the communication outage, the Pakistan Amateur Radio Society better known as PARS, working in association with Islamabad Jeep Club and Pakistan Academy of Family Physicians. Together they have begun a series of relief activities by providing communications as well as food, tents and medical support to the flood effected areas.

PARS and the Islamabad Jeep Club have so far dispatched five relief teams. One is catering to the communications needs of northern cities by linking Islamabad with Peshawar, Nowshera and Charsadda. The other would connect the central Pakistani cities of Sargodha, Lahore and Faisalabad and Multan. The other three are assigned to emergency supply preparation and delivery to those in outlying areas.

PARS has already installed 2 meter repeater at one emergency location but

its signal is fairly weak in the areas where its most needed. Plans are to relay it into remote regions using a cross-band linked system if equipment can be found or donated to make it happen. This says PARS would result in effective communication through the use hand-helds rather then reliance on base stations where electric mains service is spotty and intermittent.

If you have any spare gear that can be used in this relief effort, you can contact PARS president Nasir Khan AP2NK by e-mail to ap2nk dot nasir at gmail dot com.

For the Amateur Radio Newsline, I'm Burt Hicks in Los Angeles.
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These floods have impacted millions of Pakistanis who need help from the international community. More on this aspect of the story is on-line at tinyurl.com/36nqfzv (PARS, W7VOA)

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HAM RADIO IN SPACE: ISS COLLING SYSTEM AFFECTS ARISS CONTACTS

A cooling system failure on the International Space Station has impacted ARISS operations. On August 11th, NASA astronauts successfully completed the second of three to four space walks in an effort to replace a faulty ammonia pump module on the International Space Station's truss. One that has forced cutbacks in other word abroad the orbiting outpost including time that astronaut hams are spending on the air.

Since July 31st the space station has been operating at half its usual cooling capacity utilizing the one remaining cooling pump. This forces the astronauts to power down equipment to prevent overheating on the ISS.

As this newscast is prepared, it has already taken almost 16 hours space walks or E-V-A's for astronauts to remove and replace the failed cooling pump in an effort to bring the ISS back to full capacity. As a result, ARISS ham radio operations which include both voice and packet have been given a low priority until the problem is resolved.

Back at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, Space Station Program Manager Michael Suffredini says that a third space walk was planned to install the replacement and a fourth likely will be needed to put the defective pump into its storage place. These may have taken place by the time this newscast goes to air.

Attempts are being made to carry out scheduled ARISS contacts, but with the understanding that they may be cancelled at the last minute.

(NASA NEWS, ARISS, ANS, VOA)

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RADIO RULES: NZ MED CREATES 70 CM REPEATER INTERFERENCE

The New Zealand Ministry of Economic Development has relaxed the conditions of use of unlicensed Short Range Devices in a key ham band. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, is in Auckland with

the latest:

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The new conditions or rules were put in place without any consultation with our national society the NZART. They permit the use of walkie-talkies, wireless headphones, wireless audio senders and other such consumer gear in the input band of most of nations 70 centimeter amateur repeaters.

The previous rules had permitted the same 433.05 to 434.79 MHz frequency range but with an output power limited to 25 milliwatts and restricted the use to Telemetry and Tele-control modes that had far shorter transmissions. The new devices now given access to 433.05 to 434.79 MHz typically have very annoying, long duration transmissions causing significant interference to licensed amateur radio operations.

It should be noted that all of the New Zealand National System repeaters use input frequencies above 434.79 MHz and are not affected by the change. Those owned and operated by individual Kiwi hams operating with input channels below 434.79 MHz are the ones suffering from access by these consumer electronic devices.

From down-under in Auckland, New Zealand, I'm Jim Meachen, ZL2BHF, reporting for the Amateur Radio Newsline.

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As if this were not enough, there is also a new allocation in New Zealand from 3.640 to 4.040 MHz for Auditory Aids. These hold the potential to interfere with amateur signals in the amateur 75 and 80 meter bands. (Adapted from NZART News)

**

PROPAGATION: HERE COMES THE SUN

Some good news on the propagation front. Better days may be on their way.

Researchers at Boston University's Center for Space Physics have announced they have what they term as sub-visual evidence that a new cycle of solar wind activity around Earth is finally starting. This based on observations of recent appearances of aurora near the North Pole accompanied by dimmer glows well south of that.

What has fascinated space scientists in recent years is the delayed onset of such effects this time around. Typically, the Sun has an activity cycle of about 11 years, with flares, C-M-E's and ejection of electrically charged particles called the Solar Wind. These cause changes in the Earth's magnetic field or magnetosphere that produce luminous auroral emissions in the northern most latitudes high in the Earth's atmosphere.

Such effects are subdued during so-called solar minimum years such as the case in 1996 to 1997. They are also very prominent in solar maximum years as they were in 2001 to 2002.

According to this cycle, called Cycle 24, a new wave of solar activity had

been expected to start last year but the Sun remained dormant. This had some solar observers predicting that we might be headed for a historic solar minimum. Now the Boston group says there are finally signs of the new cycle 24 appearing and you can read more about it at tinyurl.com/34bk2pp. (World Science Net)

**

BREAK 1

 From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline, heard on bulletin stations around the world including the Three Rivers Amateur Radio Club repeater serving Philadelphia Pennsylvania

(5 sec pause here)

**

RADIO SAFETY: UNIDENTIFIED MAN FALLS FRIM HAM TOWER

The Southwest Riverside News Network reports that a man who may be an amateur radio operator was taken to a hospital after he fell about 25 feet off a ham radio transmitting tower in Ocean Beach, California on August 8th. According to a police report., the unidentified man hit his back and head when he fell around 3:30 p.m.. Officer Jane Jacobsen said the man was breathing when officers and paramedics arrived but the extent of his injuries were not immediately known. The news story did not say if the person who fell was the towers owner or someone hired to work on it.   (Riverside Net News)

**

PUBLIC SERVICE: BICYCLE TOUR OF NJ NEEDS MORE HAMS

The Newark Amateur Radio Society in New Jersey says that it needs at least 33 additional volunteer ham radio operators to provide communications for the upcoming Bicycle Tour of Newark. The event takes place on Saturday, September 18th running from 7:00 AM to 3:00 PM Eastern U-S time. In case of rain, a back-up date of Saturday, September 25th has been set.

The Bicycle Tour of Newark is comprised of both 5 mile and a 25-mile courses. The staging area for the event is downtown Newark and there will be a designated parking area for those who bring vehicles. Public transportation is by New Jersey Transit trains from New York's Pennsylvania Station.

If you have the day free and wish to volunteer please contact Leon Grauer, N0TAZ by re-mail to n0taz (at) NewarkAmateurRadio (dot) com. (QRZ)

**

RESCUE RADIO: BROADCAST STATIONS ENCOURAGED TO JOIN DIRS

The FCC Media Bureau is encouraging broadcasters to register and participate in its Disaster Information Reporting System or

DIRS. According to Doug Lung writing TV Technology Magazine, registered users input data on the status of their broadcast facilities, communications links, generator fuel and other items. They also provide emergency contact information the FCC can use to contact them to assist with disaster recovery and assistance from the FCC's federal partners.

Lung notes that updates are easy to do using the DIRS website, but he encourages stations with group management or sister stations outside the disaster area to consider having someone outside listed as a D-I-R-S participant. This, so the engineer within the disaster area doesn't have to struggle to find a working Internet connection. Rather the engineer at the affected station can quickly update that person, who could then update the DIRS website and handle inquiries. (RW)

**

COMMUNICATIONS LAW: FCC GREEN-LIGHTS CERTAIN MOBILE-ONLY TV RECEIVERS

The FCC has conditionally approved a request from Dell Computer, LG Electronics USA and Hauppauge Computer Works. This, to permit the importation and sale in the United States of television receivers designed for mobile use that exclude analog and, in some cases, standard non-mobile digital reception capability.

In granting the joint request the FCC said that it concludes that a waiver is in the public interest. This is because it would facilitate the introduction of television receivers with Mobile DTV tuners that are designed to be used in motion.

But the regulatory agency did add one proviso to the grant. It is requiring the three companies to clearly disclose to consumers that a specific device does not have the capability to receive analog signals, and, where applicable, standard non-mobile digital signals. (FCC, CGC)

**

FUTURECOMM: BROADBAND ADOPTION FALLING IN USA

Adoption of broadband by citizens of the United States has slowed dramatically this year, and a majority believes that making high-speed Internet access affordable should not be a major government priority. This, according to a study by the Pew Research Center's Internet & American Life Project.

The research found that two-thirds of Americans currently use broadband at home, a number that's statistically the same as a similar Pew study conducted the same time in 2009. The research firm last year found 63% of Americans were broadband adopters.

The study also found that the majority of Americans did not believe high-speed Internet access to everyone in the United States should be a top priority for the federal government. Fully 53% of Americans said affordable broadband access should not be attempted by government or was simply not too important of a priority. More is on-line at tinyurl.com/24dqcmb (Information Week OnLine)

**

RADIO BUSINESS: SANGEAN SIDESTEPS PORTABLE HD RADIO INTRO

Radio World reports that Sangean now says it is not planning to introduce a portable HD Radio that was to have included analog AM in the U.S. this year. Responding to a question from the newsletter, a Sangean spokesman said the company decided not to go ahead with production of the DT-600 HD. The Sangeen representative could not say why but did add that Amazon dot com is not accepting pre-orders for the unit.

IBiquity had a prototype of the unit in its booth at winter Consumer Electronics Show and also at the spring National Association of Broadcasters shows both held earlier this year in Las Vegas. The multicast-capable unit was also designed to support program associated data services and feature iTunes tagging via a USB port. (RW)

**

RADIO BOOKS: NEW AM RADIIO LOG FROM THE NATIONAL RADIO CLUB

And this one for SWL's or hams who enjoy medium wave DXing. Word from Wayne Heinen, N0POH, that the new 31st edition of the National Radio Club's AM Radio Log is hot off the press and ready to be shipped.

The AM Radio Log is a source for information on AM Radio Stations in the United States and Canada. The latest edition contains 278 pages of data and cross references, and 18 pages of instructions in 8-1/2" x 11" size, 3-hole punched, U.S. loose leaf format. This publication fits nicely into a 1" three-ring binder and for the visually handicapped the print may be read by most standard O C R systems.

According to Heinen. there have been nearly 10,000 updates since last year's 30th Edition of the log. Additional reference lists include call letters of FM simulcasts, listings of regional groups of stations in the groups section, and a cross reference of those stations that are licensed to use In Band On Channel digital audio.

To find out more or to order a copy of you very own, simply take your web browser to www.nrcdxas.org.
(W8HDU)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: RESERVATIONS UP AT RSGB CONVENTION

Turning to the ham radio social scene, word from the United Kingdom that the early bird savings available for the RSGB Convention bookings have been extended until September 1st. The Radio Society of Great Britain says that while reservations are up on last year but this is no problem as the Horwood House near Milton Keynes is a larger venue.

The RSGB Convention takes place between the 8th and 10th of October. There will be a wide variety of talks and lectures over the weekend as well as displays and demonstrations of the latest gear. More information on this

UK ham radio show is on-line at www.rsgb.org.uk/rsgbconvention. (RSGB)

**

THE SOCIAL SCENE: FIRST NORTH CORK RALLY SEPTEMBER 19

If you are planning to be in Ireland this fall you might want to attend the first ever North Cork Radio Group Rally and Electronics Fair at the Blarney Golf Resort, Tower on Sunday September 19th. Doors open to the public at 11.30 a.m. local time and the rally will run until about 5pm. Among the equipment dealers on hand will be South East Communications, Long Communications and JBT Trading. Further details about this event is on line at www.northcorkradiogroup.com. And for those of you not aware the term rally is the same as we call a hamfest on this side of the great Atlantic pond. (IRTS News)

**

NAMES IN THE NEWS: CHARLIE HELLMAN, W2RP, ON THE AIR AT AGE 100

And a word of congratulations to Charlie Hellman, W2RP, of Hastings On Hudson, New York. This on having hit the grand old age of 100.

Alan Brennglass, K2ACB, says over eHam dot net that he recently spoke to Charlie on the air. At that time he learned that W2RP got his first license in 1925 at age 15.

In honor of reaching this milestone of life, his family threw a nice party for him and the QCWA sent him a beautiful plaque for this honor. Charlie told K2ACB that he had been inactive on the High Frequency bands for several months but is now back on the, especially on 20 meters. (K2ACB, eHam)

**

BREAK 2

This is ham radio news for today's radio amateur. From the United States of America, We are the Amateur Radio Newsline with links to the world from our only official website at www.arnewsline.org and being relayed by the volunteer services of the following radio amateur:

(5 sec pause here)

**

COMMUNICATIONS RESEARCH: SOME FIREFLIES DO GLOW TO MATE

For decades, scientists have speculated about why some fireflies exhibit synchronous flashing in which large groups produce rhythmic, repeated flashes in unison. At times enough to light up an entire forest at once. Now, the first experiments on the function of this phenomenon suggest that synchronous flashing preserves female fireflies' recognition of suitable mates.

To reach this conclusion, researchers collected females of the synchronous

species from the Smoky Mountains National Park in Tennessee. In the laboratory, they exposed the females to groups of light-emitting diodes meant to mimic male fireflies. Each individual LED produced the species-specific pattern of flashes for type of fly but the experimenters varied the degree to which the flashes were in synch with one another.

Their conclusion is that Fireflies which are actually a type of beetle produce bioluminescence as a mating tool. One in which males display a species-specific pattern of flashes while cruising" through the air looking for females. These patterns consist of one or more flashes followed by a characteristic pause, during which female fireflies, perched on leaves or branches, will produce a single response flash if they spot a suitable male.

Of the roughly 2,000 species of fireflies around the world, scientists estimate that only about 1 percent synchronize their flashes over large areas. The results of this novel communications item was reported in the July 9 issue of Science.   (Adapted from Science Daily)

**

INTRUDER WATCH: 6 METER QRM LINKED TO EAST EUROPE TV

Talk about a strange and unwanted 6 meter beacon. The IARU Region 1 Monitoring System reports on a humming noise in the 50 MHz band that sounds like a defective power supply. Its most often heard during Sporadic-E openings and turn out to be carriers from East-European TV transmitters.

Wolfgang Hadel, DK2OM, was the one who actually found the carrier. Using a Wavecom 61 monitor DK2OM also located the related audio portion of the transmissions in wideband FM 5 MHz higher in frequency. (IARUMS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: PACESAT PROJECT ANNOUNCED IN TIWAN

Yet another new ham radio satellite is on the drawing boards. A team from the Taiwan Department of Aeronautics and Astronautics and the Department of Electrical Engineering at the National Cheng Kung University has announced a CubeSat development project named Platform for Attitude Control Experiment or PACEsat for short. This cubesat will feature three-axis stabilization utilizing a miniature momentum wheel and magnetic coils. Attitude determination will use a three-axis magnetometer, a three-axis gyro, and coarse sun sensors. Temperature sensors will monitor the thermal environment inside the satellite.

The new bird is designed for a 600 km near-circular orbit with a 98 degree inclination. Mission lifetime is planned to be 2 months.   Frequencies discussed in the satellite design documentation include 145 MHz for uplink and downlink communication and 433 MHz CW and AX.25.

Technical details on PACEsat can be found on-line at tinyurl.com/2evtd7a
 (ANS)

**

HAM RADIO IN SPACE: SA AMSAT CUBESAT PROJECT REMAINS NAMELESS

A planned South African ham radio satellite is still in search of a name. The South Africa AMSAT committee has reviewed all the names proposed for its new CubeSat project but found none of those proposed suitable for the project. As a result, the committee decided to hold the naming of the project until the payloads have been finalized.

The committee has however narrowed down the options for a satellite payload to one of two. The first is centered around a payload that would promote satellite use by radio amateurs in South Africa and the second is a project of a scientific nature that would also have appeal to the education sector. A decision on both a name and a final mission purpose will be made at a later date. (SARL)

**

QSL CORNER: HOW TO QSL CYPRESS DX STATIONS

The QSL Bureau of the Cyprus Amateur Radio Society says that it is receiving large numbers of QSLs that cannot be delivered to the intended recipient. This is because that station has a QSL manager outside Cyprus.

According to 5B4AHJ who is the society's QSL Bureau Manager, the problem is threefold. Those generating the QSLs are not bothering to check to see if the station has a manager. And, even if a manager's call is written on the QSL, many QSL Bureaus are still sending the QSL to Cyprus. Lastlt. QSLs for calls 5B DXcalls are being sent to Cyprus when either they should be sent to the operators QSL manager, or in the absence of a manager, they should be sent to the bureau for the home call.

5B4AHJ says that he has produced a list of stations with foreign managers for Cypress stations. It's on line at tinyurl.com/cypruscalls. (OPDX)

**

DX

In DX, word that VK6LC will be will be operational as XV2LC through September 10th from Ho Chi Minh City and as XV4LC from the Mekong Delta. Listen out for him primarily on CW with some SSB. QSL via VK6LC.

IZ4AKS will be active stroke 3B9 from Rodriguez Island from August 28th through September 4th. His operation will be holiday style on 40 through 10 meters SSB with the possibly of some RTTY and CW as well. QSL direct only to IZ4AKS at his Callbook address.

IK2NCJ will be active as D4C from Sao Vicente Island near Cape Verde until August 26th. QSL either via CT1ESV to the bureau, or direct to IZ4DPV or electronically using Logbook of the World.

GJ7DNI will be driving across France in a 1959 Commer camper van and will be working holiday style on the 40 and 80m bands between through August 30th. He will be running only 100 watts so you will have to listen out carefully for hi. If you do make contact please QSL as directed on the air.

Lastly, the "Buddies in the Caribbean" DXpedition group which specializes

in 100 watt or less radios and the Buddipole portable antenna systems will be back on the Island of St. Lucia from December 8th to the 13th. The group says that it wants to demonstrate what it terms as "Ultralite DXpeditioning" from the islands magnificent "vista" locations. This, by operating a field portable battery-only radio with back-packable and lightweight antennas from St. Lucia's beaches or scenic mountain tops.. There will also be three villa stations in operation on 160 on 10 meters using CW, SSB, and RTTY. QSL via Logbook of the World, eQSL, or mail to the individual operator's home call sign with a self addressed stamped envelope.

(Above from various DX news sources)

**

THAT FINAL ITEM: GREEN LASERS CAN BE AN EYE HAZARD

And finally this week, green laser pointers have become a popular consumer item by delivering light that's brighter to the eye than red lasers. But stories have been circulating on the Web about the potential hazards of some inexpensive models. Now, a team led by physicist Charles Clark at the National Institute of Standards and Technology has put some numbers to the problem. Amateur Radio Newsline's Jim Davis has more:

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Late last year, the research team from the National Institute of Standards and Technology purchased three low cost green laser pointers advertised to have a standard power output of 10 milliwatts. Scientific measurements showed that one unit emitted dim green light but delivered infrared levels of nearly 20 milliwatts. That's a level said to be powerful enough to cause retinal damage to an individual before he or she is aware of the invisible light. The National Institute of Standards and Technology researchers repeated the tests with several other laser pointers and found similarly intense infrared emissions in some but not all units.

So why the disparity? The researchers believe that the problem stems from inadequate procedures in manufacturing quality assurance. They note that inside a green laser pointer, infrared light from a semiconductor diode laser pumps infrared light at a wavelength of 808 nanometers into a special transparent crystal lens causing a conversion to even deeper in the infrared, at 1064 nanometers. This light then passes through another crystal of potassium titanyl phosphate which emits light of half the wavelength at 532 nanometers which is the familiar color of the green laser pointer.

But say the researchers, if the crystal is misaligned, little of the 1064 nanometer energy is converted into green light, and most of it comes out as infrared. Excess infrared leakage can also occur if the coatings at both ends of the crystal that act as mirrors for the infrared laser light are too thin.

The NIST team says this problem could be solved by incorporating an inexpensive infrared filter at the end of the laser, which could reduce infrared emissions by 100 to 1000 times depending on quality and cost. Although these filters exist in modern digital cameras and more expensive

green laser pointers, they often are left out of the inexpensive models.

The bottom line. The research team says to never point a laser pointer at anyone for any reason.

Im Jim Davis, W2JKD.

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The researchers that conducted this project are all members of the Joint Quantum Institute. This is , a collaboration between the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the University of Maryland. (Science OnLine)

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NEWSCAST CLOSE

With thanks to Alan Labs, AMSAT, the ARRL, the CGC Communicator, CQ Magazine, the FCC, the Ohio Penn DX Bulletin, Radio Netherlands, Rain, the RSGB, the Southgate News and Australia's W-I-A News, that's all from the Amateur Radio Newsline(tm). Our e-mail address is newsline@arnewsline.org. More information is available at Amateur Radio Newsline's(tm) only official website located at www.arnewsline.org. You can also write to us or support us at Amateur Radio Newsline(tm), 28197 Robin Avenue, Santa Clarita, California, 91350

Before we go, just a reminder that Saturday and Sunday, August 21st and 22nd is the 2010 Huntsville Hamfest at the Von Braun Center in downtown Huntsvills. Several Newsline staffers including our producer Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF and this reporter will be there to present the 2010 Young Ham of the Year Award to Cody Anderson, KI4FUV. The presentation will take place at around 2 P,M. on Saturday on the front podium of the main exhibit hall. If you are at the Huntsville Hamfest, please join us in honoring this fine young man for his contributions to our great hobby.

For now, with Bill Pasternak, WA6ITF, at the editors desk, I'm Don Wilbanks, AE5DW, saying 73 and we thank you for listening.

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